

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet on 20 March 2018

Present:

- Rt. Hon. Carwyn Jones AM, First Minister (Chair)
- Alun Davies AM
- Vaughan Gething AM
- Lesley Griffiths AM
- Julie James AM
- Ken Skates AM
- Kirsty Williams AM
- Jeremy Miles AM

- Shan Morgan, Permanent Secretary
- Des Clifford, Director General Office of the First Minister and Brexit
- Carys Evans, Principal Private Secretary to the First Minister
- Peter Greening, Head of Cabinet Division
- Toby Mason, Head of Strategic Communications
- Jo Salway, Deputy Director Cabinet Office
- Matt Greenough, Special Adviser
- Madeleine Brindley, Special Adviser
- David Costa, Special Adviser
- Kate Edmunds, Special Adviser
- Huw Price, Special Adviser
- Alex Rawlin, Special Adviser
- Jane Runeckles, Special Adviser
- Tom Woodward, Special Adviser
- Christopher W Morgan Cabinet Secretariat (minutes)
- Damian Roche, Cabinet Secretariat
- Andrew Slade, Director General, Economy, Skills and Natural Resources (items 4&5)
- Tim Render, Director, Land, Nature and Food (item 4)
- Gwenllian Roberts, Deputy Director, Energy Wales Unit (item 5)

Apologies:

- Mark Drakeford AM

Item 1: Minutes of the previous meeting

1.1 Cabinet approved the minutes of the previous meeting.

Item 2: First Minister's Items

Brexit

2.1 The First Minister provided feedback from his recent attendance at JMC (P) where, in addition to an update on security issues, there had been a discussion on Brexit. The UK Government had moved its position slightly on the EU (Withdrawal) Bill, with the tabling of an amendment to clause 11, but not far enough. Therefore Welsh Ministers, along with their Scottish counterparts, would continue to press for further concessions.

2.2 In the meantime, the Welsh Government would persevere with its Law Derived from the European Union (Wales) Bill, with stage two being debated in the Assembly that afternoon.

2.3 It was reported that the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, David Lidington MP, had spoken to the First Minister the previous afternoon to provide an update on the transition agreement that had been reached with the EU. This agreement appeared to be positive, as it provided assurance for business in the short term, however, difficult decisions relating to the future of the land border with the Irish Republic had been postponed.

Item 3: Government Plenary Business

3.1 Cabinet discussed the contents of the Plenary Grid and noted that the Committee of the Whole House would commence at 1pm that afternoon to consider stage two of the Law Derived from the European Union (Wales) Bill.

3.2 In terms of business for the following day, the Assembly's Business Committee had agreed to postpone the UKIP debate to accommodate stages three and four of the Bill.

Item 4: Post-Brexit Agriculture

4.1 The Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs introduced the paper, which asked Cabinet to agree the basis for Welsh agriculture policy post-Brexit.

4.2 It was recognised that Welsh farmers would face unprecedented change with anything but a soft Brexit. It would be appropriate for the Welsh Government to set out its position and begin detailed discussions with stakeholders.

4.3 Cabinet welcomed the paper and agreed that Wales needed a viable farming industry.

4.4 Cabinet approved the paper.

Item 5: Wylfa Newydd

5.1 The Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport introduced the paper, which asked Cabinet to agree the core principles to underpin the negotiations with Horizon.

5.2 Horizon Nuclear Power was due to formally submit its DCO application seeking consent to build Wylfa Newydd the following week. The UK Planning Inspectorate would subsequently set a date for the Welsh Government to produce a draft Statement of Common Ground before the examination process was due to commence in September.

5.3 Cabinet welcomed the progress report.

5.4 Cabinet approved the paper.

**Cabinet, Plenary and Committee Secretariat
March 2018**